

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01560 090641 Z

15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

SCEM-02 INT-08 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 RSR-01 OMB-01 STR-08 /166 W
----- 011348

R 081331 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6609

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UNN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 1560

E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS/ ENRG, JA, KU, SA, IR, TC (NAKASONE YASUHIRO)

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MITI MINISTER VISIT TO KUWAIT.

REF: (A) TEHRAN 3096 (B) TOKYO 4882

1. MITI MINISTER NAKASONE LEFT KUWAIT MAY 2 AT
END OF TWO DAY " PRIVATE" VISIT. DURING STAY HERE HE
HAD MEETINGS WITH MINISTERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
ELECTRICITY AND WATER AND FINANCE AND OIL. HE ALSO
MET WITH PROMINENT LOCAL PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN.
ALTHOUGH PRIMARY PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO DISCUSS
SUPPLYING KUWAIT CRUDE OIL TO JAPAN HE ALSO
DISCUSSED GENERAL TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN KUWAIT AND JAPANESE. WE ARE TOLD THAT ONE
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 01560 090641 Z

SUBJECT WHICH CAME UP AND DISCUSSED WAS CONSTRUCTION OF AN ALUMINUM FACTORY HERE A PROJECT IN WHICH JAPANESE HAVE SHOWN LITTLE PREVIOUS INTEREST.

2. AS WAS CASE IN IRAN(REF A) NAKASANE MADE THE POINT THAT JAPAN DOES NOT SUPPORT CONCEPT OF A LEAGUE OF OIL CONSUMING NATIONS. HE TOLD KUWAIT TIMES IN AN INTERVIEW THAT BEST FRAMEWORK OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OIL PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES SHOULD BE BASED ON RECIPROCAL UNDERSTANDINGS AND NOT CONFRONTATION. HE ALSO ASKED QUESTIONS ON INVESTMENT OF ARAB SURPLUS FINANCIAL RESOURCES BY SAYING THAT THIS WAS AN " INTERNAL MATTER" FOR THE OWNER COUNTRIES TO DECIDE.

3. COMMENT: NAKASONE REITERATED SAME THEMES HE EXPRESSED IN IRAN ALBEIT IN SOMEWHAT LESS STRIDENT MANNER. PRESS COVERAGE OF HIS VISIT WAS GOOD BUT OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE GOK, WHILE GIVING HIM A WARM WELCOME AND WHILE VERY INTERESTED IN JAPAN BECAUSE OF THE LEVEL OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, TREATED HIM IN A RELATIVELY LOW KEY MANNER.

4. CURRENTLY THE SENIOR OIL OFFICIALS ARE EXTREMELY BUSY WITH OPEC DOLLAR DEVALUATION ADJUSTMENT NEGOTIATIONS IN WHICH THEY ARE PLAYING A KEY ROLE. OUR PRIMARY VIEW IS THAT THE NAKOSANE DID NOT NECESSARILY MAKE ANY SIGNIFICANT NEW DEPARTURES AND MAIN PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP WAS TO ASSURE KUWAIT THAT JAPAN DID NOT INTEND TO TAKE PART IN ANY MOVE BY OIL CONSUMING NATIONS TO CONFRONT THE MAJOR PRODUCERS. STOLTZFUS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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TAGS: ENRG, (NAKASONE YASUHIRO)
To: NEA
Type: TE
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